

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the second paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/045,187, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RANDOM EARLY DETECTION OF DATA PACKETS OF NETWORK CONNECTIONS", attorney docket number ~~23397.03100~~ 10327-003400US, filed October 18, 2001; and is also related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/035,791, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISCARDING A PRIORITIZED FAIR SHARE OF TRAFFIC OF NETWORK CONNECTIONS", attorney docket number ~~23397.03000~~ 10327-003300US, filed October 18, 2001; and is also related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/045,288 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,918,005), entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CACHING FREE MEMORY CELL POINTERS", attorney docket number ~~23397.03400~~ 10327-003700US, filed October 18, 2001; the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.